

CLAIMS:

1. A method of modulating cell growth in a mammal said method comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of an agent for time and under conditions sufficient to modulate the expression of a genetic sequence encoding inhibin.
2. A method according to claim 1 wherein said cells are prostate cells.
3. A method according to claim 2 wherein said prostate cells are malignant.
4. A method according to claim 1 or 2 or 3 wherein said inhibin is α -inhibin.
5. A method according to claim 4 wherein said modulation of the expression of said genetic sequence is up-regulation.
6. A method according to claim 5 wherein said up-regulation inhibits cell growth.
7. A method of modulating cell growth in a mammal said method comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of inhibin.
8. A method according to claim 7 wherein said cells are prostate cells.
9. A method according to claim 8 wherein said prostate cells are malignant.
10. A method according to claim 7 or 8 or 9 wherein said inhibin is α -inhibin.
11. A method according to claim 10 wherein said modulation of cell growth is inhibition of cell growth.

12. A method of modulating cell growth in a mammal said method comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of an inhibin antagonist.
13. A method according to claim 12 wherein said cells are prostate cells.
14. A method of treating a mammal said method comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of an agent for a time and under conditions sufficient to modulate the expression of a genetic sequence encoding inhibin.
15. A method according to claim 14 wherein said cells are prostate cells.
16. A method according to claim 15 wherein said prostate cells are malignant.
17. A method according to claim 14 or 15 or 16 wherein said inhibin is α -inhibin.
18. A method according to claim 17 wherein said modulation of the expression of said genetic sequence is up-regulation.
19. A method according to claim 18 wherein said up-regulation inhibits cell growth.
20. A method of treating a mammal said method comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of inhibin.
21. A method according to claim 20 wherein said cells are prostate cells.
22. A method according to claim 21 wherein said prostate cells are malignant.
23. A method according to claim 20 or 21 or 22 wherein said inhibin is α -inhibin.

24. A method according to claim 23 wherein said modulation of cell growth is inhibition of cell growth.
25. A method of treating a mammal said method comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of an inhibin antagonist.
26. A method according to claim 25 wherein said cells are prostate cells.
27. The use of an agent capable of modulating the expression of a genetic sequence encoding inhibin in the manufacture of a medicament for the modulation of cell growth in a mammal.
28. Use of an agent according to claim 27 wherein said cells are prostate cells.
29. Use of an agent according to claim 28 wherein said prostate cells are malignant.
30. Use of an agent according to claim 27 or 28 or 29 wherein said inhibin is α -inhibin.
31. Use of an agent according to claim 30 wherein said modulation of the expression of said genetic sequence is up-regulation.
32. Use of an agent according to claim 31 wherein said up-regulation inhibits cell growth.
33. Use of inhibin in the manufacture of a medicament for the modulation of cell growth in a mammal.
34. Use of inhibin according to claim 33 wherein said cells are prostate cells.

35. Use of inhibin according to claim 34 wherein said prostate cells are malignant.
36. Use of inhibin according to claim 33 or 34 or 35 wherein said inhibin is α -inhibin.
37. Use of inhibin according to claim 36 wherein said modulation of cell growth is inhibition of cell growth.
38. Use of an inhibin antagonist in the manufacture of a medicament for the modulation of cell growth in a mammal. *a*
39. Use of an inhibin antagonist according to claim 38 wherein said cells are prostate cells.
40. An agent for use in modulating the expression of a genetic sequence encoding inhibin wherein modulating expression of said genetic sequence modulates cell growth.
41. An agent according to claim 40 wherein said cells are prostate cells.
42. An agent according to claim 41 wherein said prostate cells are malignant.
43. An agent according to claim 40 or 41 or 42 wherein said inhibin is α -inhibin.
44. An agent according to claim 43 wherein said modulation of the expression of said genetic sequence is up-regulation.
45. An agent according to claim 44 wherein said up-regulation inhibits cell growth.
46. An agent for use in the modulation of cell growth in a mammal comprising inhibin.

47. An agent according to claim 46 wherein said cells are prostate cells.
48. An agent according to claim 47 wherein said prostate cells are malignant.
49. An agent according to claim 46 or 47 or 48 wherein said inhibin is α -inhibin.
50. An agent according to claim 49 wherein said up-regulation inhibits cell growth.
51. An agent for use in the modulation of cell growth in a mammal comprising an inhibin antagonist.
52. An agent according to claim 51 wherein said cells are prostate cells.
- ~~53.~~ A pharmaceutical composition comprising an agent capable of modulating expression of a genetic sequence encoding inhibin thereby modulating cell growth and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and/or diluents.
54. A claim according to claim 53 wherein said inhibin is α -inhibin.
- ~~55.~~ A pharmaceutical composition comprising inhibin capable of modulating cell growth and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and/or diluents.
56. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 55 wherein said inhibin is α -inhibin.
- ~~57.~~ A pharmaceutical composition comprising an inhibin antagonist capable of modulating cell growth and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and/or diluents.

- Sub B2
58. A method of screening for a mammal having prostate cancer or predisposition to prostate cancer, said method comprising screening for the down-regulation of inhibin protein levels in said mammal wherein the down-regulation of said inhibin protein levels is indicative of said mammal being predisposed to prostate cancer or having already developed prostate cancer.
59. A method of screening for a mammal having prostate cancer or a predisposition to prostate cancer, said method comprising screening for the down-regulation of inhibin gene expression in said mammal wherein the down-regulation of said inhibin gene expression is indicative of said mammal being predisposed to prostate cancer or having already developed prostate cancer.
60. The method according to claim 58 or 59 wherein said inhibin is α -inhibin.
61. The method according to claim 60 wherein said α -inhibin is α N or isoform thereof.
62. The method according to claim 60 wherein said α -inhibin is α C isoform thereof.
63. The method according to claim 58 or 59 or 60 or 61 or 62 wherein said down-regulation is absence.
64. A method of screening for a mammal having prostate cancer said method comprising screening for the down-regulation of α -subunit gene expression in said individual, wherein the down-regulation of α -subunit gene expression is indicative of prostate cancer.
65. The method according to claim 64 wherein said down-regulation is absence.
- Sub B4

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66. A method of screening for a mammal having a predisposition to prostate cancer, said method comprising screening for α -subunit gene expression in said individual wherein α -subunit gene expression reveals disruption of the basement membrane, said disruption indicating a predisposition to prostate cancer.
- ~~67.~~ A method of screening for a mammal having prostate cancer or a predisposition to prostate cancer, said method comprising screening for the modulation of the activin protein in said mammal wherein modulation of the activin protein is indicative of said mammal being predisposed to prostate cancer or having already developed prostate cancer.